(b) and (c) No specific target has been fixed for bilateral trade between India and the EU countries. Bilateral trade between India and the EU countries during April 1999-December 1999 for which data is available amounted to Rs. 63,460.33 crores. (US$ 14,673.21 mn). During the visit of Mr. pascal Lamy to India, the two sides had also exchanged views on measures to promote bilateral trade, including trade in agricultural products.

Tea Board's Budget Allocation

3099. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Tea Boards' Budget allocation has been reduced;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the details thereof; and

(c) whether it is going to adversly affect the working of the Board?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Survey Conducted by Foreign Companies

†3100. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the foreign companies which have conducted surveys in the country during the last five years for setting up Industry;

(b) the number of companies which have expressed desire to set up industries in certain specified areas;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof;

(d) what are the names of the above companies; and

(e) what is Government's opinion in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) to (e) Sir, several consultancy agencies do take up general as also specific study/survey on the potential of investment on behalf of their clients. Companies that desire to set up industries in India either apply for Government's permission to invest in India, or avail of the automatic route. Cases requiring Government's permission are dealt with under the current guidelines.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.